

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2019
County Commission Chambers
945 North Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091
Regular Scheduled Meeting
6:30 p.m.



PRESENT: Commissioner District 5 Chairman Frank Durrance
Commissioner District 3 Vice-Chairman Chris Dougherty
Commissioner District 1 Commissioner Ross Chandler
Commissioner District 2 Commissioner Kenny Thompson
Commissioner District 4 Commissioner Danny Riddick

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Carter, County Manager; Rachel Rhoden, Deputy County Manager; Will Sexton, County Attorney; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Dean Bennett, Facility Maintenance Director; Benji Bennett, Fire Department; Allen Parrish, Emergency Medical Services Director; Major Smith; Mark Crawford, Press; Randy Andrews, Zoning Director; Lt. Shuford, Emergency Management Director; Sheriff Smith; Wendy Russell, Deputy Emergency Management Director; Ben Riggs, I.T. Support Specialist.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Durrance called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE** – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. LDR 19-01—Randy Andrews, Zoning Director:

Mr. Andrews stated that this is the "First Reading" of the proposed ordinance and read the ordinance by title. Final reading and consideration for adoption is scheduled for June 20th.

The public hearing was opened. There being no response, the public hearing was closed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ([Forms](#)):

Mitchell Gunter:

- Fire Department chief and fire assessment.

Sylvia Tatum:

- Difficulties with the County website.
- County organizational chart and responsibility of the commissioners.
- Fire Department/Volunteer Fire Department.

Chairman Durrance deviated from the agenda to handle Item #5:

5. DISCUSS/PROVIDE DIRECTION ON THE OPERATION OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Responding to a request made by Vice-Chairman Dougherty, Mr. Carter and Sheriff Smith presented their plan, strategy and goals for the operation of the Fire Department.

There was extensive discussion on the subject during which each commissioner presented comments, concerns and suggestions. The discussion was not limited to but included:

- The decline in volunteerism and the support of volunteer fire fighters.
- State requirements for fire fighters.
- Failure of the proposed fire assessment.
- Leadership for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dougherty and carried 5-0 (roll-call vote taken), to turn the operation of the Fire Department over to Sheriff Smith.

Additional discussion:

- Re-assessing the transfer should it be unsuccessful.
- Sheriff to provide monthly progress reports.
- On behalf of Michelle and Doug Green, Sheriff Smith presented a check to the Commission for \$1,000.00 for proceeds from a fundraising event held at Belle Oaks. The funds are to be designated to the Volunteer Fire Department.

Chairman Durrance stated that he does not see this as a permanent solution; but a stop-gap measure in an effort to get things done. At some point in time he would like to see Emergency Medical Services and the Fire Department combined. He emphasized that there is no Fire Assessment currently being considered by the Board. If at any time while he serves on the Commission that this issues comes up again, it would be on a referendum and voted on by the citizens.

Chairman Durrance recognized Mr. Parrish, who presented comments regarding the combination of Emergency Medical Services and the Fire Department. He disputed recent claims that he does not want to see the two combined and addressed the need for the combination of services. However, the additional work load will mean an increased shortfall in the ability of EMS to respond to calls. Combining the two can be done, but there are many elements to consider, requiring extensive, informed planning.

As a final comment, Vice-Chairman Dougherty stated that he would like to see Bradford County be the exception to the nationwide decline in volunteerism. He would also like to see the County create a model and set an example of a successful department. Supporting the volunteers is a good start to such success.

Mr. Carter said that his office is committed to do whatever is necessary to contribute toward the success of the department.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. CAREERSOURCE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA – LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD 9 – 2019-2020 REQUEST OF WAIVER OF 50% ITA EXPENDITURES**
- B. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO RENEW CENTURY AMBULANCE SERVICE'S CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (COPCN) FOR BASIC LIFE SUPPORT AND/OR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT SERVICES**
- C. REQUEST TO REFER DELINQUENT EMS ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,547.29 TO GILA CORPORATION FOR FURTHER COLLECTION EFFORTS**
- D. MINUTES OF 04-18-19 REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**
- E. BRADFORD COUNTY FY10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM DEO CONTRACT NO. 11DB-C5-03-14-01-H17 UNIT NO. 10-11 MAESTRE SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE**
- F. BRADFORD COUNTY FY10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM DEO CONTRACT NO. 11-DB-C5-03-14-01-H17 UNIT NO. 10-13 BIAS SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE**
- G. BRADFORD COUNTY FY10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM DEO CONTRACT NO. 11DB-C5-03-14-01-H17 UNIT NO. 10-16 KONKEL SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE**

*Vice-Chairman Dougherty moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and **carried 5-0, to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety.***

4. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS—Commissioner Riddick:

*Commissioner Riddick moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dougherty, and **carried 5-0, to approve payment of the bills.*** (The Distribution List is on file in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk of Courts.)

5. (Handled above.)

6. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS—Will Sexton:

- A. RESOLUTION—Authorizing Execution of a Transfer and Maintenance Agreement with FDOT for the Bridge #284035 on CR200A at Alligator Creek (Financial Project No. 435780-1-52-01)**
 - ASSOCIATED COST:** Ongoing maintenance costs for roadway and bridge.
 - RECOMMENDED MOTION:** “To approve the resolution as read by title only and approve entry into the agreement with FDOT.”

Mr. Sexton read the resolution by title and presented it for consideration.

*Vice-Chairman Dougherty moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and **carried 5-0, to adopt the resolution.*** (Resolution No. 2019-28)

B. RESOLUTION—Authorizing Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation for Boating Access Projects
ASSOCIATED COST: N/A

Mr. Sexton read the resolution by title and presented it for consideration.

*Commissioner Chandler moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dougherty, and **carried 5-0, to adopt the resolution.** ([Resolution No. 2019-29](#))*

C. RESOLUTION—Declaring a Definite Time and Place for a Public Hearing to Consider Closing and Abandoning a Portion of Jackson Street Lying South of Canova Street (West One-Half)
ASSOCIATED COST: N/A

Mr. Sexton read the resolution by title and presented it for consideration.

*Vice-Chairman Dougherty moved, seconded by Commissioner Riddick, and **carried 5-0, to adopt the resolution.** ([Resolution No. 2019-30](#))*

D. RESOLUTION—Declaring a Definite Time and Place for a Public Hearing to Consider Closing and Abandoning a Portion of Jackson Street Lying South of Canova Street (East One-Half)

Mr. Sexton read the resolution by title and presented it for consideration.

*Vice-Chairman Dougherty moved, seconded by Commissioner Riddick, and **carried 5-0, to adopt the resolution.** ([Resolution No. 2019-31](#))*

E. PROPOSAL BY AVERA AND SMITH, LLP FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO FEDERAL OPIOID LITIGATION
ASSOCIATED COST: N/A

Mr. Sexton stated that as no one from Avera and Smith was present, Items "E" and "F" are pulled from the agenda and would be rescheduled.

F. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTINGENT FEE RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH ROMANO LAW GROUP; SCHOCHOR FEDERICO AND STATION, P.A.; AVERA AND SMITH, LLP; AND SPANGENBERG SHIBLEY & LIBER, LLP FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO FEDERAL OPIOID LITIGATION

ASSOCIATED COST: No cost; contingent fee arrangement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: In the event the Board desires to engage the services of Avera & Smith, the following motion is recommended:
"To approve the Contingent Fee Retainer Agreement as presented."

(Pulled from the agenda above.)

G. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA FOR MATTERS RELATED TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, FLORIDA JOB GROWTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

ASSOCIATED COST: None.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: "To approve the interlocal agreement with the City of Keystone Heights, FL as presented."

Mr. Sexton presented the Interlocal Agreement for consideration. The State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity has indicated that this agreement will satisfy the property ownership requirements of the Florida Job Growth Infrastructure Grant Agreement previously approved by the Board. The agreement acknowledges that the County will construct the roadway and Internet fiber improvements at the Air Park on property that is owned by the City of Keystone with the grant funds and will maintain it in compliance with the grant requirements. This is different from an ordinary grant requirement that you cannot spend grant funds on property you do not own.

*Vice-Chairman Dougherty moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and **carried 5-0 to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Keystone Heights.** (The minute taker did not have an executed copy of the agreement for inclusion in the minutes.)*

H. PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING POTENTIAL AMENDMENT(S) TO SECTION 53-1, BRADFORD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES (Designated Smoking Area Outside Courthouse)

Mr. Sexton stated that patrons of the Bradford County Senior Center have complained about individuals smoking around the entrance of the Center and asked if they could display signs such as are around the courthouse. While reviewing the County Code to establish the language for the signs, it was realized that the Code only prohibits smoking around entrances and exits to the Courthouse facility.

Mr. Sexton recommended amending the Code to make the same prohibition at all County facilities.

Chairman Durrance stated that he would like to see smoking prohibited within 50 feet of ANY County facility.

*Commissioner Riddick moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dougherty, and **carried 5-0, to amend the Code to prohibit smoking within 50 feet of all County facilities.***

7. SHERIFF REPORTS—Sheriff Smith: None.

8. CLERK REPORTS—Clerk Norman:

- Presented the [2018 Year-End amounts](#) due and from the Sheriff to close out his budget. The County will receive from the Sheriff's General Fund \$984,501.93; and from the Sheriff's Individual Depositor Fund \$14,117.78. The County will return back to the Sheriff \$606,005.46.
- Requested a Budget Workshop following the June 3rd Regular Meeting. There was a consensus to grant Clerk Norman's request.

9. COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS—Brad Carter: None.

10. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS—Chairman Durrance:

- **Operation of the Fire Department:** For clarification purposes, Chairman Durrance stated that he has had prior conversations with the Sheriff and conveyed his expectations to him concerning the operation of the Fire Department. However, he had no pre-determined arrangement with the Sheriff.

11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Riddick:

- **Operation of the Fire Department:** Both options before the Board were excellent options. He is looking forward to working with the Sheriff toward the success of the Fire Department.

Vice-Chairman Dougherty:

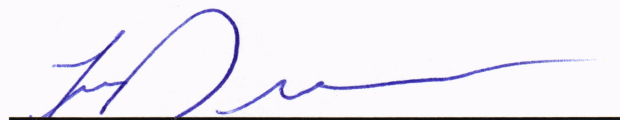
- **Operation of the Fire Department:** As stated by both Mr. Carter and Commissioner Riddick, there are no losers in the decision that was made, and he is looking forward to moving forward.
- Requested to be kept informed with regular updates/reports from Mr. Thurow, Project Manager, of the DEO grant.

Clerk Norman advised that Mr. Thurow had a prior engagement and was unable to attend this meeting.

Chairman Durrance added that he spoke with Mr. Thurow today and that he assured him that the Board would be kept informed.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**



FRANK DURRANCE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: 

RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved by BoCC at the Regular Scheduled Meeting of 7-1-19